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Chief, Support Staff, ORR

2 May 1956

Chief, Industrial Division, ORR

Comments on Referenced Memorandums

- REF : (1) "Ad Hoc" COMINT Requirements  
(2) ORR Supplemental Guidance to NSA  
(3) Amplification of the USCIB COMINT Objectives List,  
Project No.

1. "Ad Hoc" Requirements

(a) These requirements are undoubtedly a valuable aid to analysts in exploiting COMINT. We feel, however, that it should be made quite explicit that they in no way preclude informal liaison and other direct contact between the analysts and their opposite numbers in NSA. Even the writing of a meaningful ad hoc requirement depends heavily on the analyst's familiarity with NSA operations and knowledge of the virtues and limitations of COMINT. It would probably be advisable for the analyst to consult briefly with NSA before writing a formal requirement.

(b) The principle of selectivity is sound, but in practice it may be unworkable. A branch might take pains to reduce its requirements to one high priority item, but this item may be of very low priority in the total ORR picture. We recommend, therefore, that a mechanism be set up for selective screening of these requirements at the Ch/E level.

2. Supplemental Guidance

(a) Here again we feel that the importance of individual contact between ORR and NSA analysts is insufficiently stressed. In paragraph 2 f, for example, verbal guidance (oral guidance would be more precise usage) is referred to as a supplement to written guidance. If we exclude the Long-Range ORR requirements, the reverse is probably true: as pointed out in the first sentence, "there is no substitute for personal contact ...". We therefore suggest deletion of the clause, "is a necessary supplement to written guidance and ...".

(b) Paragraph 2 f (1) refers to the ORR representative as being "responsible for liaison and coordination." This conveys

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the impression that these functions might be his exclusive province. It is our understanding that his primary responsibility is to assist OHR analysts in their liaison with NSA.

(c) Paragraph 2 refers to reviewing of projects by NSA, a procedure which appears to have little to recommend it. The publication time would probably be extended by the process, and the net gain in most cases would be negligible. If such a procedure were adopted, it should operate exclusively at the discretion of the Branch Chief.

3. A review of the USCIB COMINT Objectives List will entail considerable effort for some branches. We suggest, therefore, that the dates in paragraphs 6 and 7 be as widely separated as possible.

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